

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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DRAFTED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH:HMN
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-----124959 091745Z /47

O R 091735Z DEC 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LOME NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COTONOU NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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FROM AF/W

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF AMERICAN TOURISTS

1. IT HAS COME TO OUR ATTENTION THAT FOUR AMERICANS RANGING
IN AGE FROM MID-30'S TO MID-40'S PLAN A TRIP BY LAND ROVER
THROUGH ADDRESSEE COUNTRIES FROM DECEMBER 11 THROUGH
JANUARY 6. THEIR PURPOSE IS ESSENTIALLY TOURISM BUT
THEY HAVE A SPECIFIC INTEREST IN SEEING VILLAGE LIFE AND IN
PHOTOGRAPHING THE MANUFACTURING OF ARTIFACTS USED IN DAILY
LIFE. THEY PLAN ARRIVE LOME 1500 LOCAL DECEMBER 11 ON
AIR AFRIQUE 110 AND TO TAKE TAXI TO COTONOU WHERE THEY
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EXPECT TO ARRIVE EVENING DECEMBER 11. THEY DO NOT HAVE
HOTEL RESERVATIONS IN COTONOU. THEY BELIEVE THEY HAVE
MADE ARRANGEMENTS THROUGH THE BENIN MISSION IN NEW YORK
TO HIRE A LAND ROVER IN WHICH THEY WILL DRIVE THROUGH
NORTHERN BENIN AND UPPER VOLTA TO NIAMEY AND FROM
THENCE TO NDJAMENA PASSING EITHER THROUGH NORTHERN NIGERIA
OR AROUND THE NORTHERN EDGE OF LAKE CHAD. FROM NDJAMENA

THEY PLAN TRANSIT NORTHERN CAMEROON AND NIGERIA AND TO RETURN LAND ROVER TO COTONOU BEFORE JANUARY 6 IN ORDER TO DEPART AT 1700 LOCAL ON UY 708 ON THAT DATE.

2. TRIP CAME TO OUR ATTENTION THROUGH A FRIEND OF THEIRS IN TREASURY. WE HAVE WARNED THEM ABOUT THE HAZARDS OF TRAVELING IN BENIN AND INFORMED THEM GENERALLY ABOUT PROBLEMS THEY MAY FACE IN THE OTHER COUNTRIES. WE HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT IN BENIN AND NIGERIA ESPECIALLY TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS IS REGARDED WITH SUSPICION. WE HAVE URGED THEM TO CHECK IN WITH EACH EMBASSY AND TO REQUEST THAT AN APPROXIMATE ARRIVAL TIME BE TRANSMITTED TO THE NEXT POST ON THEIR ITINERARY. WE HAVE GIVEN THEM THE NAMES OF AMBASSADORS AND SENIOR OFFICERS IN EACH POST, AND FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, THE EMBASSY'S TELEPHONE NUMBER. AT LEAST SOME MEMBERS OF THE GROUP HAVE EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE TRAVELING IN DEVELOPING AREAS. HOWEVER, THEY SAY THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF FRENCH IS "SUFFICIENT TO GET ALONG BUT NOT TO ARGUE".

3. NAMES OF TRAVELERS ARE:

JAMES BYRON BELL, JR. AGE 42
HIS WIFE - SUSAN KOELLE BELL AGE 38
SUSAN GETZENDANNER AGE 36
DAVID G. ARSCOTT AGE 33

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THEY ARE CHECKING IN WITH EMBASSY COTONOU NO LATER THAN NOON, MONDAY DECEMBER 12. CHRISTOPHER

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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